Basic MLA Documentation

In-Paper Citations
A noted linguist explains that Monty Python humor often relied on “bizarre linguistic interactions” (Crystal 108).

In his discussion of Monty Python routines, Crystal notes that the group relished “breaking the normal rules” of language (107).

Basic Format for a Book with one Author

Single Author
Last name, First name. Title of book. Publisher, Year.


Multiple Authors
Last name 1, First name 1, and First name 2 Last name 2. Title of book. Publisher, Publication date.


Note: For three or more authors, list the first author followed by a comma and et al.

Work in an Anthology
Author’s last name, First name. “Title of selection or chapter.” Title of book, Edited by First name Last name, Publisher, Publication date, Selection’s page numbers.


Article in a Journal
Last name, First name. “Article Title.” Journal title, Volume number, Issue number, year, Page number(s).


Article from a Database
Last name, First name. “Article Title.” Journal title, Volume number, Issue number, year, Page number(s). Database Name, doi, URL.


*Note: If no doi number, end with URL for the home page of the database.

Works from a Web site
Last name, First name. “Title of Work.” Title of Website. Publisher or sponsoring organization, date of publication. Location in page. Accessed Date.


*Note: If no date provided, end with Accessed and date.

*Information found in The Everyday Writer, Sixth Edition by Andrea A. Lunsford and on The Purdue Online Writing Lab*